

Message Text

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64

ORIGIN AID-32

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COTONOU IMMEDIATE

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AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: APAPA SORGHUM

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A REPEAT OF LAGOS 1809 FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

2. QUOTE: MISSION WILL REVIEW ISSUES INVOLVED MOVEMENT SUBJECT GRAIN TO GAO.

SHIPMENT ARRIVED DECEMBER 17 AND STORAGE CHARGES RAPIDLY APPROACHING DOLLARS 100,000, OTHER DONORS HAVE CONTINUED TO SHIP TO NIGER DURING THIS PERIOD.

GON EXPECTS TO RECEIVE REPAYMENT IN A SHORT PERIOD WHICH IS IMPOSSIBLE GIVEN TIME TO PROCURE AND 60 DAY BERTHING DELAY AT APAPA.

WHILE NO BID FOR 3,000 MT TO MALI HAS BEEN RECEIVED ESTIMATED COST IS GREATER THAN DOLLARS 500,000 AS OPPOSED TO DOLLARS 210,000 IF SENT NIGER.

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LARS 210,000 IF SENT NIGER.

ONLY POSSIBLE ROUTE IS APAPA-KANO-NIAMEY-GAO AND GRAIN WILL PROBABLY BE TRANSFERRED TO DIFFERENT TRUCKS AT LEAST THREE TIMES. THIS IS NOT A POPULAR ROUTE AND FEW TRUCKERS WILL BE

INTERESTED WITH MINIMAL BACK HAULS.

IT IS VERY LATE IN THE PROGRAM TO OPEN UP NEW UNTESTED ROUTES. AGENTS CAN GIVE NO ASSURANCES OF PERFORMANCE SINCE THEY HAVE NEVER HANDLED ANY CARGO TO MALI.

INFLATION HAS ALREADY RESULTED IN A FORTY PERCENT INCREASE IN FREIGHT RATES IN NIGERIA. ANY FURTHER DELAY IN DISPOSAL WILL ADD TO COSTS SUBSTANTIALLY.

MISSION URGES ALL 8,000 MT BE DISPOSED IN NIGER ASAP. MALI SHOULD BE SUPPLIED THROUGH REGULAR TESTED ROUTES. CROSBY. UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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